



## **2011 Temple City Charter Election**

### **Q: What is the proposed amendment to the City Charter?**

A: The amendment proposes to amend the City Charter to mandate that the City Council each year approve a budget establishing a minimum staffing level for the number of police officers authorized for the City of Temple Police Department. Specifically, the amendment states:

*“The City Council of Temple Texas shall authorize, as of April 1<sup>st</sup> of each budget year, the Temple Police Department to employ a minimum number of Police Officers equivalent to not less than 2.5 Police Officers for every one thousand citizens in population for the City of Temple according to the most recent annual population estimate provided by the state demographer under Chapter 468, Government Code, or the most recent federal decennial census if that estimate is more recent.”*

### **Q: Why is the amendment on the ballot?**

A: The City received a petition submitted by the Temple Police Association, a private organization not associated with the City or the Temple Police Department. The petition was signed by a certain number of registered voters of the City, and certified by the City Secretary's Office as having the necessary number of signatures of registered voters of the City to require the City Council to call for a general election on the proposed amendment. By law the City Council was required to call an election on the first available uniform election date.

### **Q: How many police officers would the proposed amendment require the City to add to the existing police force?**

A: If the amendment passes, and if the City of Temple's population on the effective date of the amendment is 67,658, then the Temple Police Department would need to add 36 police officers.

### **Q: How much would adding 36 police officers cost?**

A: The City estimates the total costs in year 1 to be \$3,640,725. This is based on current costs for hiring, equipping and deploying an entry level police officer. An entry level police officer, salary and benefits, is currently budgeted at \$51,442. In addition, each police officer has a take home vehicle. Patrol cars are currently being budgeted at \$35,000 each. Finally, there are initial set up and operational costs which are estimated to be at \$543,118.

### **Q: How would these new costs be paid for?**

A: There are several ways the additional \$3,640,275 in costs could be paid for, including, but not limited to: 1) anticipation of new, non-property tax rate increases in revenue; 2) cuts in existing programs and services; 3) tapping fund balances and reserves; 4) a property tax rate increase; and/or 5) combinations of all of the above.

**Q: If the amendment passes, when would it go into effect?**

A: April 1, 2013. According to the language in the proposed amendment, “as of April 1<sup>st</sup> of each budget year...”. The City’s first budget year after the election would be FY 2012-13, which begins October 1, 2012...and the City’s approved budget on April 1, 2013 would have to be in compliance with the proposed amendment.

**Q: Why can’t the City provide materials describing the “pros and cons” of voting for the proposed amendment?**

A: The City is prohibited by law from using public funds to advocate the passage or defeat of any election measure. That prohibition has been interpreted broadly to prohibit the use of printed materials, websites, or electronic communication paid for by public funds to advocate.